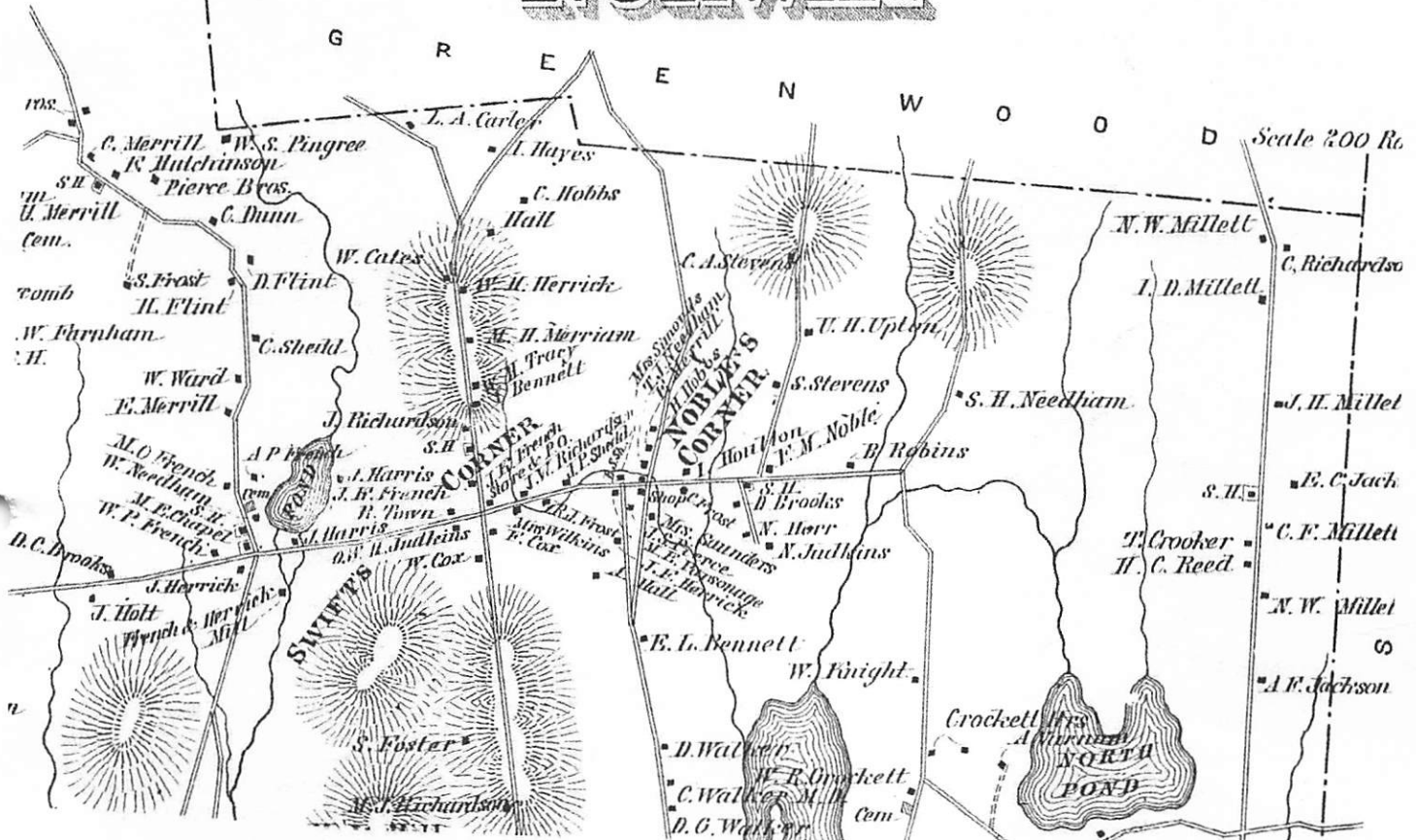


Quarterly Publication of the Bethel Historical Society's Regional History Center
Volume 27, Number 1 (Spring 2003)

TOWN OF NORWAY



*The “Shadagee” section of Norway was later known as Noble’s Corner, shown above (center).
From Caldwell & Halpenny, Atlas of Oxford County, Maine (Philadelphia, 1880).*

LOST IN THE WOODS OF SHADAGEE

By Larry Glatz

Practically every county and town in America has its curiously named Slab City, Goon Hollow or Songo Pond. But here in Central Oxford County, there are two neighborhoods in nearby towns which share the same puzzling name of Shadagee.

The Shadagee section of Greenwood lies to the south of Locke Mills and on the western shore of Twitchell Pond. At least as early as 1820, by which time the town's original nine school districts had been formed, the Shadagee designation was in common enough use to have become attached to District Number Eight school, which was located there.

Ten miles or so to the south of Greenwood's Shadagee, the town of Norway has a neighborhood which was once known

by that same usual name. In the fifty-eighth installment of his newspaper series, *Norway in the Forties*, Osgood Bradbury (1828-1897) tells how North Norway's "Lower Corner" (now known as Noble's Corner) had once been known as "Shatagee." Although the North Norway designation is now entirely forgotten, there are enough references to that name and place to suggest that there was a time when all "Norwegians" would have known it as such.

“Shadagee” and “Shatagee” are but two of the numerous spellings of the neighborhoods thus known, but these and all others are phonetically the same. It seems certain, therefore, that unless one of these localities was named after the other, their names had the same original source. However, even if one of the names was “original” and the other “derivative,” the large question remains. Where did the name come from?

(continued on page 4)



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Elsewhere in this issue is the most current listing of Society members. We are proud of our large membership, but very aware that we have to constantly recruit and attract new ones. We do this by offering programming, publications and other incentives. Members are very important to us and the Membership Committee works hard to keep us growing. We are always interested in gaining new members and business/corporate sponsors. Gift memberships are also available for those interested in unique ideas to honor someone special. Anyone having suggestions of individuals and/or businesses who might be interested in joining are welcomed as well. Together we can keep the Society strong and moving confidently toward the future.

Arlan R. Jodrey

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Help keep the Society strong by making a gift to its Annual Fund Campaign. Tax deductible contributions help support its exhibits, special events, publications, and other programming. Gifts in any amount may be made throughout the year to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, ME 04217-0012.

Editor's Corner

Larry Glatz's article on the origin of the name "Shadagee" presents an intriguing idea of how it came to be. We hope to do more of this type of article as we attempt to broaden the subjects included under our regional history "umbrella." Anyone with ideas or possible articles is invited to submit them for consideration for a future issue of *The Courier*.

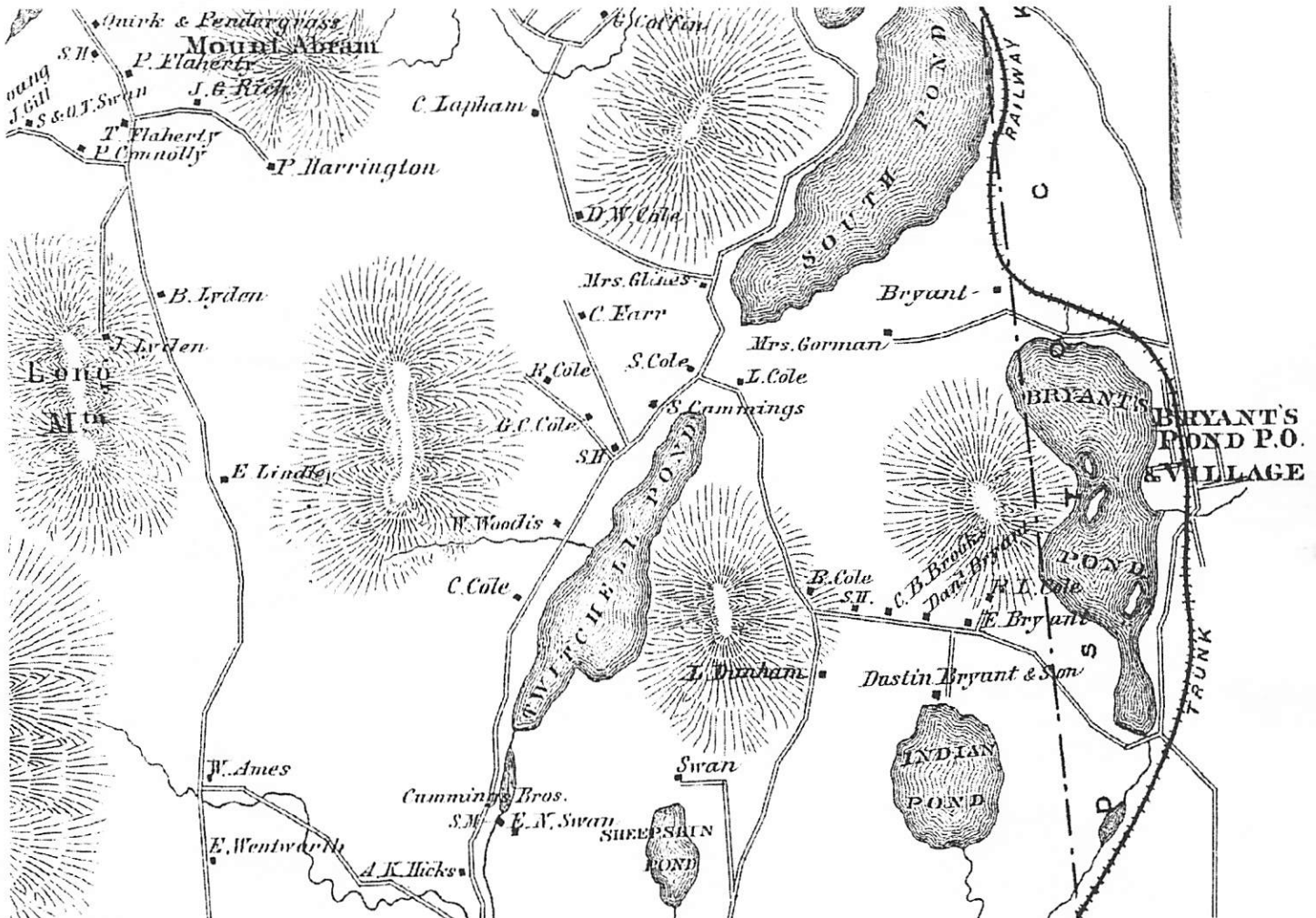
SRH

(Lost in the Woods of Shadagee, continued from page 1)

The word, or a near homonym, does not appear in any dictionary I have seen—not even a dictionary of slang or Americanisms. Although it has a sound not unlike a kind of melding of Shadrach and Galilee, it has no parents or close cousins in the Bible, as far as I can tell. Of course, like so many other local geographical designations, the name might be of Abanaki origin, but Bradbury's observation that the usage arrived quite late and replaced the very English "North Norway Lower Corner" as the area's name belies this notion. (Although through the region's awareness of the tourist trade, more than one very English name has lately disappeared from

and the Civil War received considerable attention in our local histories and lore, while from the perspectives of most of our historians, the War of 1812 is often lost in the shadows of its two much more intimidating relatives. However, amid the minutiae and scant local accounts of that war appear details which shed light on the naming of our two Shatagees.

It seems that most of the militia companies which were raised from the towns of Oxford County were assigned either to the defense of Portland or the northern front, from Burlington, Vermont, to Plattsburg, New York, and vicinity. Among the latter soldiers were men of Bethel, Buckfield, Woodstock, Norway and Paris, serving in the 45th Regiment



The "Shadagee" section of Greenwood just west of Twitchell Pond is shown in the map above (center).

From Caldwell & Halpenny, Atlas of Oxford County, Maine (Philadelphia, 1880).

the map to be replaced by a "more authentic" Abanaki one. The renaming of Canton's Whitney Pond to Lake Anasagunticook is one nearby example.)

For several years, therefore, "Shatagee" along with "Yagger," "Paris Cape" and a few others from here and there in Oxford County remained in my file labeled "Neighborhood Names, Etymology Unknown." Gradually, however, suggestive evidence accumulated—a scrap of information from one town history, a cursory reference in a journal—enough perhaps to support an educated guess as to the likely origin of Shatagee as a place name in Greenwood and Norway. The story, as I have come to believe, goes like this:

The events and combatants of both the Revolutionary War

of Col. Denny McCobb.

In late October 1813, Col. McCobb's regiment, under the overall command of Gen. Wade Hampton, was involved in an action whose immediate purpose was to secure a staging area on the St. Lawrence which would allow the American forces a means of attacking Montreal. Hampton's numbers were superior to those of the Canadians who opposed him, and his plan was to advance at nighttime into battle position and attack at dawn. Unfortunately, the American guides were inept, and the ground to be traversed was a dense hemlock swamp. Various detachments became lost and doubled back upon each other, causing their commanding officers to believe that the enemy force was "everywhere." The confu-

(continued on page 5)

(Lost in the Woods of Shadagee, continued from page 4)

sion was exacerbated by the cleverness of the Canadian colonel, who sent buglers out into various quarters of the woods to sound alarms. The American were baffled into a disorderly rout and they were eventually forced to retreat into winter quarters.

Although for obvious reasons the battle was not widely reported to the American press, the Canadians hailed it as a great victory. All in all, it was one of the most ignominious American defeats of the War. This engagement, which would of course be long remembered by the men who fought in it, was named for the dense forest in which it was fought; it became known as the Battle of Chateaugay Woods. But the local lads who returned to Oxford County, being not particularly well schooled in French (even though some of them were Parisians by birth) soon corrupted the name to Shatagee or Shadegee.

Just a few citations from the local histories will serve to support this etymology. In Lapham's *History of Bethel* it is reported that Jonathan Bean "was killed in the Shadagee fight, war of 1812 (p. 479). The histories of Paris and Woodstock record the names of several men who "were in the Army of Northern New York" and "were in the engagements of Shadagee and Plattsburg" (*Paris*, p. 366; *Woodstock*, p. 112). Charles F. Whitman (1848-1932) tells how Joseph and John Packard had participated in "the battle of "Shadagee Woods" and had died of wounds received in that quarter. (*History of Buckfield*, p. 90.) Moreover, a number of Norway men are listed in Capt. Bailey Bodwell's company, which served under Col. McCobb at Chateaugay. (Lapham's *History of Norway*, p. 236).

In fact, in all of the accounts I have been able to find, the only actions in which area men are said to have been involved during the War of 1812 were the uneventful march to Portland and the remarkably eventful battle of Chateaugay. It seems likely, therefore, that when the veterans returned, there would be some discussion of the defense of the city, but there would be many vivid accounts of the pandemonium which occurred in the hemlock swamps along the Canadian border. Tales of "Shadagee" and its dismal results would undoubtedly be everywhere in the area towns.

Precisely how the name of that northern battle became affixed to the two local neighborhoods will probably never be known, but some reasonable assumption may be made.

Perhaps by 1814 or so, the two areas occupied the "frontier" territory of the towns in which they were located, so those citizens of the more settled areas may have referred to them in the same dismal terms as the veterans were using to describe the New York/Canada frontier. Perhaps the name was first used jokingly by members of one area of the town to make sport of the allegedly undeveloped nature of their neighbors' lands. Or perhaps veterans settled in those particular locales, which then took on the name of the battle for which the new residents had become known.

In any event, it seems that our local Shadagees got their names from the unusual battle of Chateaugay Woods in which so many of the area militiamen had served. Now, what about "Goon Hollow?"

2003 BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDER OF EVENTS

January-April—Winter Course, "Four Centuries of New England"

February 22—Annual Heritage Day

May 8—Lecture, Dr. Joel Eastman, Emeritus Professor of History, University of Southern Maine, "The Cumberland & Oxford Canal, 1830-1870"

**May 24—Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show
Annual St. Never's Day Sale**

June 12—Lecture, Bill Robertson, author, "Working on the Railroad"

June 20—Middle Intervale Meetinghouse Society Picnic

**July 1—"Middle Ground" exhibit opens
Dr. Moses Mason House opens for the season**

July 4—Fourth of July Community Picnic with Portland Brass Quintet

August 8, 9, 10—Sudbury Canada Days—Summer Heritage Festival, Hall Memorial Lecture, Allan Whitmore, Chairman, History Department, University of Southern Maine, "Ellsworth's George Washington Madox (1821-1882) and this Down-East Democrat's Surprising Linkage of Know-Nothing Nativism to Radical Feminism and Marxism"

August 10—Old Fashioned Church Service at the Middle Intervale Meetinghouse

September 11—Annual Meeting and Potluck Supper

Lecture, Richard Fraser, author, "Maine Made Automobiles"

September 20—Antiques Floorshow at Middle Intervale Meetinghouse

October/November—Fall Course, "Wood and Woods: Logging and Landscape in Northern New England"

October 9—Lecture, Mason Philip Smith, author, "The Great Gale of 1898 and the Loss of the Steamer Portland"

November 13—Lecture, Stanley R. Howe, Executive Director, Bethel Historical Society, "Aviation in Bethel: 1920s to the Present"

December 4—Annual "Christmas with the Masons"

December 31—Annual New Year's Bethel

For more information, please call the Society at (207) 824-2908 or (800) 824-2910 or e-mail: info@bethelhistorical.org

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Notes Regarding Bethel, Maine

by William A. Valentine

(continued from the last issue)



The Old Elm Tree

On the bank of the river on the Chapman farm is a very large elm tree. In my boyhood days, it was 25 feet in circumference 6 feet from the ground but divided into two equal and symmetrical parts a little higher. Now one part has died and broken away and gone but the other is still thrifty.

It is said the above was a small tree when Rev. Eliphaz Chapman built his first log cabin on the knoll just above the tree in about the year 1789. In earlier days, the Indians had a clearing of about twelve or 14 acres here but abandoned it after Lovewell's Fight near Fryeburg in 1725 and it was largely grown up again when Chapman settled here. In a few years, he built a new house on higher ground back from the river and a little later a new home that went through various alterations and endured until 1937 when it was destroyed by fire. In my boyhood days, this house had a fireplace big enough to burn cord wood in 4 foot lengths.

(to be continued in the next issue)

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Denny and Rosemary Bunn, Tallahassee, FL

Linda Foster, Pittsfield, MA

Harold P. Mahon and Sylvia Vander Sluis, Lancaster, MA

John and Suzanne Schneider, Lynnfield, MA

In Memoriam

Died, 22 January 2003, James Anderson, Newry,
Sustaining Member

Died, 14 February 2003, Mansfield Packard, South Paris,
Senior Member

Died, 16 February 2003, Beatrice Brown, Bethel, Life
Member

Died, 19 February 2003, Paul Kailey, Amelia Island, FL,
Senior Member

Died, 26 February 2003, Ranald Stevens, Bethel, Honorary
Member

Died, 7 March 2003, Carolyn Brooks, Bethel,
Life/Honorary Member

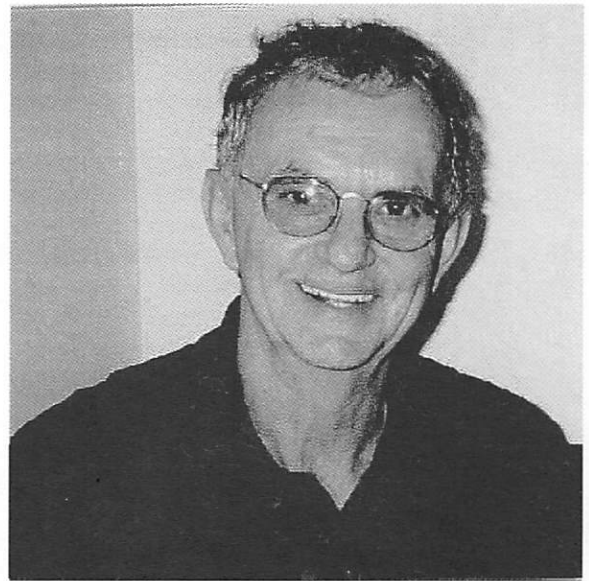
Died, 11 March 2003, Mae Maddix, Norway, Sustaining
Member

Died, 15 March 2003, Stanley Coolidge, Oxford,
Sustaining Member

Died, 26 March 2003, Dorothy Clarke Wilson, Orono, Life
Member

Died, 1 April 2003, Alan Abbott, Bethel, Life Member

Died, 14 May 2003, Harlan Hutchins, Bethel, Life Member



MEMBER PROFILE:

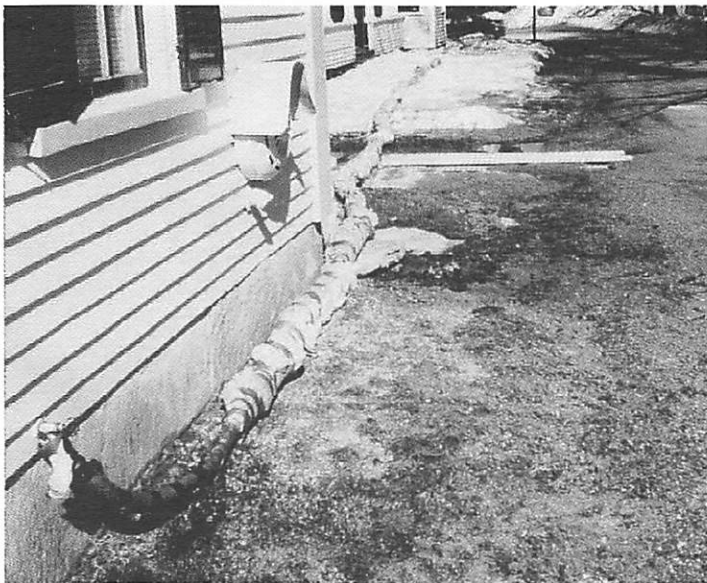
Alan Abbott

Born in Paterson, NJ, Alan Abbott moved permanently to Bethel in 1994. The son of Stuart and Florence (Mills) Abbott, he graduated from Central High School in 1951 and served for four years in the United States Navy. After his discharge from the Navy, he was employed until 1960 by Abbott Brothers, a manufacturing business founded by his grandfather. He then moved into a career in the marina business, where he ultimately owned and operated Pelican Island Marine in Seaside, NJ with his brother Donald Abbott. In 1955, he married the former June Forsythe. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

In 1972, Al started his teaching career at Ocean County Vocational/Technical School in Waretown, NJ, where he taught the inaugural Marine Trades program in the State of New Jersey. In 1990, he was selected as the Teacher of the Year. Upon his retirement in 1993, Al settled with June in Bethel, where he enjoyed the woods of Maine, while developing his wood working skills. His gardens were his pride; his children and grandchildren discovered many hours of delight on his "trails."

During his time in Bethel, Al and June became life members of the Society. Al joined the Garden and Grounds Committee, where he spent many hours ensuring that the grounds were an inviting place for the many visitors who come to Bethel each year. He worked closely with Geraldine Howe, who chaired the committee for many years and her successor, Lee Barth.

After a courageous battle with cancer, he died on 1 April 2003. In light of his long interest in gardens, his family has established a memorial fund to acquire a tree that will be planted this spring on the grounds of the Dr. Moses Mason House in his memory.



It was a case of "neighbor helping neighbor" due to the particularly severe winter as far as frost in the ground, which resulted in many frozen pipes throughout Bethel. The Bethel Inn Conference Center behind the Society's O'Neil Robinson House lost its water in February and did not get it back until April. An insulated hose was run from the Robinson House to the Conference Center so that the building could be used for a number of Bethel Inn functions.

Diary of William S. Hastings (continued from the last issue)



1939-October 1, Cloudy, rain. Our 16th wedding day. We went to Errol & thru 13 mile woods in p.m. Foliage is pretty. October 2, Clear, cool. Dug all day. Mason meeting at Sabatus Lodge, Berlin. October 3, Clear, cool. Finished seed piece, 528 bbl. Dug 11 rows on big piece, 49 bbl. Had fingers dressed. They are coming good. October 4, Cloudy, light rain. Threshed bean, 16 bu. Star meeting in eve. October 5, Clear, warm. Dug 16 rows, 70 bbl. Grassy digging. Rolf's bulldozer is leveling our pasture. October 6, Clear & warm. Shower at night. Dug spuds. Norway in eve. October 7, Clear, cool. Cecil [Tyler] up here to fix tractor clutch. I surveyed on Swift place in p.m. October 8, Clear a.m. Cloudy p.m. We took Dad to Dry Mills Hatchery. Saw lots of fish. October 9, Clear & warm. Dug 78 bbl. October 10, Clear, warm. Dug spuds. October 11, Cloudy. Digging. October 12, Cloudy, warm. Dug. Bulldozer working on intervale leveling bank. October 13, Clear, cool. Digging. Cecil Tyler came up & put new clutch in tractor. Works nice. Norway in eve. for treatment. Fingers are healed. October 14, Clear & cool. I'm around home. October 15, Clear, cold & windy. Crew finished digging our spuds. About 4300 bu. in all. Greenwood in p.m. October 16, Clear & cool. Digging on John's. Tough! 119 bu. October 17, Clear & cold. Windy! Digging on John's. Crew is shrinking. 85 ½ bu. October 18, Cold Wind! Ground froze. Couldn't dig. Built sick pens in barn! P. M. surveyed in Lot 21 R 2 for Fred Edwards 4 hrs. October 19, Cloudy, cool. Finished John's spuds. He got 343

bu. in all. Sick at night. October 20, Clear, warm. Norway for treatment. Bethel in late p.m. Grange in eve. October 21, Cloudy, mist. Open season on deer. I got stove from Camp 9. Fixed Guy's & Leslie's lights. Packed 45 doz. eggs & got my camp outfit together. Rain in night. October 22, Cloudy, warm. Started for the Forks at 9 a.m. Grover, Harry, John & I. Arrived at 2 p.m. on Old Haystack Point. Bob's family gone to World's Fair [Flushing, N.Y.] October 23, Cold & squally & windy! Harry [Brooks] got a deer. October 24, Same weather. No luck. Came out in late p.m. October 25, Clear & warm. I serviced tractor & plow & plowed on corn ground. October 26, Rain. Put up load of spuds. Finished one "circuit" of lights for John. October 27, Cloudy, light rain. Norway for treatment. Cleaned chimney. Packed eggs. Bethel for haircut. Saw Mrs. Fannie Carter about surveying. October 28, Rain a.m. Clearing. Home in a.m. Hunted p.m. No luck. October 29, Clear & cold. Took Dad Cole to doctor. The family came here. Showed pictures. October 30, Cloudy, snow. I swamped roads in Lot 10 R 9, Bean Swamp. Finished tree line on Trask line, 1.5 rods South of post. October 31, Rain. Put up spuds. P.M. wired 3 hours for John. Flushed Coburn cellar drain. November 1, Clear & cold, windy. Plowed corn ground a.m. Harrowed 8 A in p.m. Star meeting in evening. November 2, Clear, cool. Plowing on Bean place. Broke up 4 or 5 A. November 3, Clear, cool. Surveyed 4 hrs. for Fred Edwards. Butchered veal calf. Bob is plowing. Norway in eve. for treatment & pictures. November 4, Clear, warm. Indian summer. I repaired and worked on car. Changed battery. New one is Cross Country, 3 years guarantee, rubber separators. November 5, Cloudy, rain. Farwell's heifer hauled home by stone-boat. Fixed school water pipes. Greenwood in late p.m. November 6, Clear & warm. Butchered for Farwells. Worked on elm tree. November 7, Cloudy, cold. Plowed 6 ½ hr. for Noyes. November 8, Cloudy, warmer. Plowed for 5 hrs. for Noyes. Fixed Farwell's lights. Florence [Farwell] game me her father's Masonic pin. Harry Jordan called me to survey for him. November 9, Cold, windy. Cleaned brooder houses. Put up load of spuds. November 10, Cool, clear. Norway for treatment. Car fixed for winter. Miles 21,000? November 12, Cold & windy. Sawed wood, etc. Threw my back out again (4 bones). November 11, Cold & windy. Norway to see [Dr.] Swett. Back to Greenwood. November 13, Cold & windy. I'm tinkering. Set up a small motor for emery wheel. November 14, Cold & windy. Surveyed 4 hrs. for Harry Jordan in Lot 17 R 3. Paid \$3. Bought Hudson Bay axe of H.I. Bean, weight 2 lbs. 5 oz. Price \$1. November 15, Clear. Hauled stove wood. Patched shed roof. So. Paris to solicitor's dinner. November 16, Clear, warm. Sawed wood. Patched tool house roof. So. Paris to Masonic district meeting. November 17, Clear, cold, windy. Load pressed hay to Bill Yates. Put up spuds. Fixed truck. Norway in eve. November 18, Clear, warm. Doing nothing. Mounted small motor & emery wheel. November 19, Clear & cold, windy. Put up spuds & sawed wood. P.M. went to Bill's [Yates] camp to hunt. November 20, Clear, windy. Hunted all day. No luck.

(To be continued in the next issue)

News from the Museum Shop

The Society's Museum Shop at the O'Neil Robinson House is sporting a fresh, new look this spring thanks to the addition of several recently acquired display units. Some rearranging has been accomplished, and many new items are being added to the inventory for the upcoming season.

Priscella Walker and Jan Todd have done an outstanding job completing one of our full-sized Lucy Eames sampler kits for display in the Shop. It has been matted and framed and is now hung in a prominent place to inspire others.

The murals of the Dr. Moses Mason House remain one of the Society's prime attractions, and the new color postcards of these rare 19th century wall paintings continue to sell well. We have a good supply of Primrose Path replicas of the Mason House and the West Parish Congregational Church in stock; the next in this series of miniatures, a replica of the Middle Intervale Meetinghouse, should be available by mid-summer. We're pleased that the Society has once again found a supplier for the book *American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850*, which we sold more than a decade ago. Our display case at the Bethel Inn has attracted the attention of many Inn guests, a number of whom have made purchases in the Shop.

The Museum Shop's summer hours will begin on July 1, the same day guided tours of the period rooms in the Dr. Mason House resume. We're looking forward to another busy summer and fall season at the Historical Society, and are very

grateful to the faithful volunteers who help in the shop. We're always looking for more volunteers, so if you or someone you know would be interested in signing up, please contact us by phone at 824-2908 or email at info@bethelhistorical.org

Book Note

Our Own Snug Fireside: Images of the New England Home 1760-1860 by Jane C. Nylander. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1993. Pp. 317. Paper \$21)

Jane C. Nylander, Director of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, has written a very useful volume for anyone interested in everyday life in 18th and 19th century New England. Her portrayal of domestic affairs in the era between the American War for Independence and the Civil War is based on a judicious analysis of information derived from letters, diaries, probate records, newspapers and a rich variety of other sources. Intimate details on meal preparation, spinning and weaving textiles, washing and ironing laundry, planning a social occasion, and exchanging food and services are among the topics covered in this remarkable book. Mrs. Nylander also explores and attempts to correct many myths and misconceptions that have developed about this significant historical period. Profusely illustrated with a wide variety of photographs and drawings, this book will entertain and inform those interested in the New England experience

To order, please see page 12.

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY *Membership Application*

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- Free admission to the period house museum.
- A 10% discount on purchases of \$10 or more from the Society's Museum Shop
- Special Research Library privileges, including reduced photocopying fees
- Subscription to the Society's quarterly, *The Courier*
- Preferred rate for exhibit hall/meeting room rental
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- Special invitations to Society events

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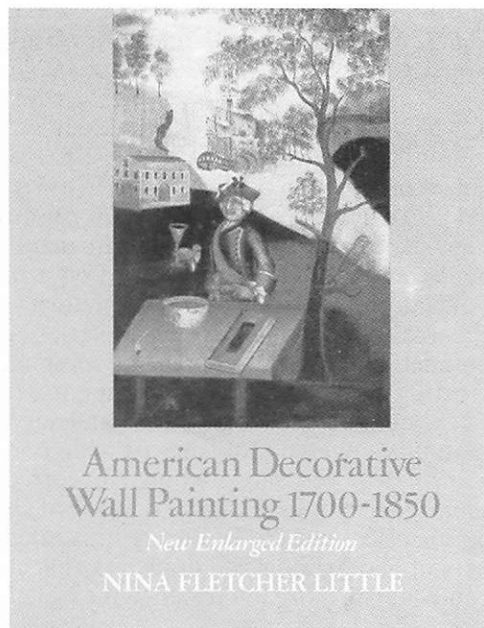
*Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all comments and inquiries to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. Telephone (207) 824-2908 or 1-800-824-2910. FAX (207) 824-0882
E-Mail: info@bethelhistorical.org ISSN0749-9208*

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American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850

By Nina Fletcher Little

This enlarged edition of one of the classic studies of painted decoration on early woodwork and plaster walls in America is available once again from our Museum Shop. The influence of itinerant artists on rural homes in this country was profound, as amply demonstrated in this pioneering work featuring many black-and-white and color photographs. 169 pp., paper. \$19.95

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*For a list of additional items available from the Museum Shop, please visit our web site at www.bethelhistorical.org

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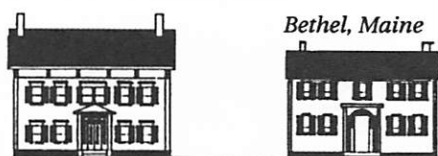
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